

February 26, 2003

The Kansas City Kansas Police Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation announced today the first confirmed ballistic match in Kansas using the new Integrated Ballistic Information System (IBIS).

IBIS is a computerized system that allows images of cartridge casings and bullets to be compared with ballistic databases across the nation. In this first case, in Kansas City Kansas an unknown masked suspect shot a victim in the leg when he answered the door to his residence. This occurred in January of 2002, and while a fired casing was recovered there was no other identifying information and the case remained unsolved. Kansas City Missouri police seized a pistol this fall on a carrying a concealed weapons charge. The weapon also turned out to be stolen. Kansas City Missouri Regional Crime Lab submitted images of a test fire of that weapon which IBIS matched to the casing found at the scene of the Kansas City, Kansas shooting. KBI firearms examiners then obtained the actual items and were able to confirm the connection. Investigation in the Kansas City Kansas shooting is continuing based upon the new information made available through the IBIS match.

The KBI received the IBIS equipment from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms last summer. Besides the main laboratory in Topeka, the KBI operates a regional forensic laboratory for firearms and DNA at the Kansas City Kansas Community College. In addition to KBI firearms examiners, the Kansas City Police Department has provided two police officers who have been trained as firearms technicians to enter samples and maximize the use of the IBIS. The Kansas City police officers finished their training in October and have entered approximately 90 ballistic samples so far. This hit occurred within the first 26 samples entered.

Contact Persons:

Kyle G. Smith
Director of Public and Governmental Affairs
Kansas Bureau of Investigation
785-296-8211

Captain Michael Kobe
Kansas City Kansas Police Department
913-573-6118